

Former Fire Stations: 14, 19 and 31

City of Seattle Response to Request for Information Regarding the Harbor Island Superfund Site, East Waterway Operating Unit

D. QUESTIONS

1. Identification and Association with Subject Property

- a. Provide the full legal name and mailing address of Respondent.

City of Seattle
c/o William Devereaux
Director, Environmental Management and Real Estate Division
Seattle City Light
700 5th Avenue, Suite 3316
P.O. Box 34023
Seattle, Washington 98124-4023

- b. For each person answering these questions on behalf of Respondent, provide that person's:
- i. full name;
 - ii. title;
 - iii. business address and electronic mail address; and
 - iv. business telephone number.

Lisa Levias
Paralegal, Environmental Section
Seattle City Attorney's Office
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2050
Seattle, WA 98104-7095
Lisa.levias@seattle.gov
206-684-8646

- c. If Respondent wishes to designate an individual for receiving future correspondence from the EPA concerning the EWOU, please indicate so here by providing that individual's name, mailing address, electronic mail address, telephone number, and fax number.

Pete Rude
Senior Sediment Scientist
Seattle Public Utilities
700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98104-4018
pete.rude@seattle.gov
Fax: 206-684-4631

- d. Provide the address of each Subject Property, the time period when Respondent held any ownership or other interest in the Subject Property, and the type of interest held.

The City has identified five locations within the EWOU area of interest where former fire stations operated. The locations are:

1st Avenue South

Former Fire Station 14 was located on the southwest corner of 1st Avenue South and South Holgate Street.¹ The current address of this property is 1915 1st Avenue South (King County Parcel 7666207135).² The City accepted deeds for the property in 1906 and 1909 from two railroad companies and a final deed for the property in 1930 from Great Northern Railway.³

The station was constructed in 1907 and remained in operation until 1927.⁴ Upon its closure, Former Fire Station 14 was used as a storage warehouse for the fire alarm division until approximately 1930.⁵ In 1931 the site was sold to John Moran.⁶

Frink Place - Harbor Island

In 1941, the City accepted a lease from the State of Washington for land.⁷ The property was located at 11th Avenue Southwest and Frink Place on the north end of Harbor Island.⁸ The City received a federal grant in 1941 for the construction of a new Fire Station 31 building and fire boat moorage at the site.⁹

In 1956, the City agreed to vacate the Fire Station 31 Harbor Island site.¹⁰ In 1966, the State of Washington transferred the lease of the land from the City to the Port of Seattle.¹¹ Correspondence from 1957 indicates former Fire Station 31 was then located on Interlake Avenue in Seattle, outside of the East Waterway Allocation boundary.¹²

¹ SEA EWW_00003150-all, Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015.

² SEA EWW_00009360-all, King County Parcel Viewer, printed 2022.

³ SEA EWW_00009403-all, Ordinance 13645, 1926; SEA EWW_00009631-all, Ordinance 22597, 1909; SEA EWW_00009636-all, Ordinance 60344, 1930.

⁴ SEA EWW_00003150 (1), Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015.

⁵ SEA EWW_00008803, at SEA EWW_00008831 (29), Correspondence re former Fire Station 14, 1930.

⁶ SEA EWW_00009649-all, Ordinance 60607, 1931.

⁷ SEA EWW_00009625-all, Ordinance 71615, 1941.

⁸ SEA EWW_00017532, at SEA EWW_00017533 (2), Ordinance 71546, 1941.

⁹ SEA EWW_00017506-all, Ordinance 71458, 1941.

¹⁰ SEA EWW_00009272, at SEA EWW_00009278 (7), City to vacate Fire Station 31 site, 1956.

¹¹ SEA EWW_00009296, at SEA EWW_00009299 (4) CF 250293, 1966.

¹² SEA EWW_00009272, at SEA EWW_00009275 (4), Fire Department memo re water connection at Interlake Fire Station 31, 1957.

Massachusetts Street

Former Fire Station 31, constructed in 1920, was historically located at the “foot of South Massachusetts Street.”¹³ A 1933 Fire Department order states that Fire Station 31 was to be abandoned that year.¹⁴ The City was not able to locate records as to the ownership or operations at the Massachusetts Street site upon closure of the station. However, correspondence reveals Fire Station 19 was located at the “Foot of Mass. St., Elliott Bay” from at least 1959 to at least 1966.¹⁵

Nevada Street

The first known location of former Fire Station 19 was at 672 South Nevada Street.¹⁶ The station was constructed in 1907 and remained in operation until 1927.¹⁷ In 1927, the site was sold to Kuzma Gavranich.¹⁸ Upon its closure in 1927, Fire Station 19 operations transferred to Fire Station 14.¹⁹

Spokane Street

In 1969 and 1970, the City accepted deeds from the Port of Seattle for a new Fire Station 19 site at 819 SW Spokane Street (King County Parcel 7666700315).²⁰ Construction of the building was completed in 1972.²¹ In 1980, the fire station was closed for the West Seattle Freeway Bridge Replacement Project.²² The City retained the property and currently owns it as part of the West Seattle Bridge ROW.²³

- e. Identify all materials used or created by Respondent’s activities or operations at each Subject Property.

The City is not aware of any materials that were created at the Former Fire Station sites.

¹³ SEA EWW_00003150, at SEA EWW_00003150 (1), Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015.

¹⁴ SEA EWW_00008803, at SEA EWW_00008814 (12), Fire Department special order re closure of Fire Station 31, 1933.

¹⁵ SEA EWW_00009495, at SEA EWW_00009504 (10), Correspondence re location of fire stations, 1959; SEA EWW_00009352-all, CF 256936, 1966.

¹⁶ SEA EWW_00003150 (1), Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015; 1913 map of Seattle Tide Lands, at <https://cdm16118.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16118coll2/id/74>

¹⁷ SEA EWW_00009495, at SEA EWW_00009507 (13), Location of Fire Station 19, 1927.

¹⁸ SEA EWW_00009617-all, Ordinance 53034, 1927.

¹⁹ SEA EWW_00009495, at SEA EWW_00009507 (13), Location of Fire Station 19, 1927.

²⁰ SEA EWW_00009532, at SEA EWW_00009538 (7), Ordinance 98010, 1969; SEA EWW_00009532, at SEA EWW_00009532 (1), Ordinance 98822, 1970; SEA EWW_00009592, at SEA EWW_00009596 (5), Drawing showing location of former Fire Station 19, 1980.

²¹ SEA EWW_00009592, at SEA EWW_00009594 (3), Summary of Salient Facts and Conclusions for Fire Station 19, 1980.

²² SEA EWW_00009409, at SEA EWW_00009415 (7), Correspondence re vacation of Fire Station 19, 1981.

²³ SEA EWW_00023644, at SEA EWW_00023652 (9), West Seattle Bridge PMA report, printed 2022.

1st Avenue South

Former Fire Station 14 was constructed as a 2-story wood building.²⁴ A 1916 photo shows a tower in the rear.²⁵ As evidenced in the 1916 photo, former Fire Station 14 was built on planks and was located a short distance from a pier.²⁶

Frink Place - Harbor Island

The City was not able to locate records describing materials used for the construction of former Fire Station 31 on Harbor Island. The 1941 proposal for construction included moorage for a fire boat.

Massachusetts Street

Fire Station 31 was constructed in 1920 as a two-story reinforced concrete building.²⁷ A 1921 photo shows a tower located in the rear.²⁸ As evidenced in an elevation plan dated 1913, the fire station at this location included docks.²⁹

Nevada Street

The initial Fire Station 19 building was constructed of concrete, brick and stucco with a tower located in the rear.³⁰

Spokane Street

The Fire Station 19 built in 1972 was constructed of wood with a finish of concrete slab and stucco.³¹ It was a one-story building with a mezzanine and a tower in the rear and space for two fire trucks and equipment.³²

- f. Provide copies of all documents regarding the ownership or environmental conditions of the Subject Property, including, but not limited to, deeds, sales contracts, leases, surveys, investigations, sampling, reports, blueprints, "as-builts," and photographs.

Responsive documents have been produced and indexed.

- g. Provide information on the condition of the Subject Property when purchased or at the beginning of the relevant time period; describe the source, volume, and content of any fill used during the construction of the buildings, including waterside structures such as seawalls, wharves, docks, or marine ways.

²⁴ SEA EWW_00003150 (1), Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015.

²⁵ SEA EWW_00009351, Former Fire Station 14 photo, 1916.

²⁶ SEA EWW_00009351, Former Fire Station 14 photo, 1916.

²⁷ SEA EWW_00003150 (1), Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015.

²⁸ SEA EWW_00009530, Former Fire Station 31 photo, 1921.

²⁹ SEA EWW_00009586, Fire station elevation plan, 1913.

³⁰ SEA EWW_00003150-all, Department of Neighborhoods report, 2015.

³¹ SEA EWW_00009495, at SEA EWW_00009502 (8), Fire Station 19 property information, 1979.

³² SEA EWW_00009495, at SEA EWW_00009500 (6), Fire Station 19 property information, 1979.

The City is not aware of any structures present on the former fire station properties at the time the properties were acquired. The buildings were constructed in areas that were once tidal flats.³³ No records regarding fill placed on the Subject Properties have been located, but some properties may contain fill from historical dredging of the East Waterway. One of the former fire stations was on Harbor Island, which was built with fill from sluicing Beacon Hill and from Duwamish River dredge spoils.

Three of the fire station locations were near water or waterside structures. See the response to 1.e for additional details.

- h. Describe the activities or operations at each Subject Property including:
 - i. the date such activities or operations commenced and concluded; and

See the response to h.ii. below.

- ii. the types of activities or operations performed at each Subject Property, including but not limited to the use, storage, or disposal of any materials in an outdoor location.

Few records regarding historic fire station operations have been located. Available records and site locations indicate that the stations addressed in this response provided service to the industrial area. The Port of Seattle, for example, believed fire protection was an essential service to any port complex.³⁴ Plans for some of the fire stations included moorage for fire boats.

Most of the fire stations included sleeping and eating quarters for the personnel along with storage areas for equipment. Records and photos indicate the older stations contained stables, as they show horse-drawn carriages. Records show most of the fire stations closed when extensive repairs were needed.

- i. Describe each release of materials at or from a Subject Property, including the type and quantity of the materials, the location of the release, the impacted media, and the response.

The City has no information or documents related to the release of materials at the former fire stations sites.

- j. Provide information on past dredging or future planned dredging in the EWOU.

The City did not dredge or arrange to have dredged any part of the East Waterway in association with the former fire station sites.

³³ SEA EWW_00009630, Tidelands map, 1905.

³⁴ SEA EWW_00009532, at SEA EWW_00009549 (18), Correspondence re location of Fire Station 19, 1967.

- k. Provide all documents pertaining to the use, storage, or disposal of any hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the Subject Property.

The City has no information or documents related to the use or storage of hazardous substances at the former fire station sites.

- l. Provide all information on electrical equipment used at the Subject Property, including transformers or other electrical equipment that may have contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The City has no information or knowledge of transformers or electrical equipment containing PCBs at the former fire station sites.

- m. Provide information on the type(s) of oils or fluids used for lubrication of machinery or other industrial purposes, and any other chemicals or products which are or may contain hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants which are or were used at the Subject Property.

1st Avenue South

In 1912, lime was used to disinfect the manure boxes that were installed beneath the floor of the stables of former Fire Station 14.³⁵

Nevada Street

Correspondence indicates there were manure boxes at the site, indicating lime may have been used for disinfecting.³⁶

The City has no information or documents related to any chemicals or products that may have contained hazardous substances at the Spokane Street, Massachusetts or Harbor Island sites.

- n. Provide any Subject Property drainage descriptions plans or maps that include information about storm drainage which includes, but is not limited to, above or below surface piping, ditches, catch basins, manholes, and treatment/detention or related structures including outfalls. If available, also include information about connections to each sanitary sewer.

The City reviewed GIS, side sewer maps and cards, and historic documents, but few records were located regarding drainage at the former fire stations. Most of the former fire station locations did not have sanitary connections when they were constructed. The following information is what the City was able to locate:

³⁵ SEA EWW_00008803, at SEA EWW_00008845 (43), Manure boxes at Fire Station 14, 1912.

³⁶ SEA EWW_00009495, at SEA EWW_00009527 (33), Handwritten notes re manure boxes at Fire Station 19, 1911.

1st Avenue South

Correspondence indicates there were no sewer connections at former Fire Station 14.³⁷ The floors of the station were “considerably lower than the sewer,” and it was impossible to connect to street sewers.³⁸ In 1911, a cesspool was installed in the rear of the station, but drainage from the floors and stables continued to go directly beneath the building.³⁹

Frink Place - Harbor Island

The City has not located any records showing any storm drain lines or any sanitary drain lines at former Fire Station 31.

Massachusetts Street

A 1919 floor plan of former Fire Station 31 at Massachusetts Street identifies wash basins, showers, urinals and standard water department covers.⁴⁰ It is unknown where sanitary waste drained.

Nevada Street

The City has not located any records showing any storm drain lines or any sanitary drain lines at former Fire Station 19.

Spokane Street

Fire Station 19 was connected to the sanitary sewer on Spokane Street in 1972.⁴¹ Prior to the connection, sanitary sewage may have been discharged directly into the Duwamish Waterway for a few months.⁴²

- o. With respect to past activities or operations at each Subject Property, provide copies of any stormwater or drainage studies, including data from sampling, conducted at the Subject Property. Also provide copies of any Stormwater Pollution Prevention or Maintenance Plans or Spill Plans that may have been developed for different operations during Respondent’s occupation of the Subject Property.

The City does not have any documents that are responsive to this request.

- p. Describe each underground storage tank present at any time on a Subject Property, including but not limited to the size and location of the tank, the materials stored in the tank, the time period of use, whether any material leaked

³⁷ SEA EWW_00008803, at SEA EWW_00008846 (44), Correspondence re former Fire Station 14, 1912.

³⁸ SEA EWW_00008803, at SEA EWW_00008845 (43), Correspondence re former Fire Station 14, 1912.

³⁹ SEA EWW_00008803, at SEA EWW_00008846 (44), Correspondence re former Fire Station 14, 1912.

⁴⁰ SEA EWW_00009623-all, Fire Station 31 second floor plan, 1919.

⁴¹ SEA EWW_00009364, at SEA EWW_00009368 (5), Correspondence re sanitary sewer, Fire Station 19, 1971.

⁴² SEA EWW_00009364, at SEA EWW_00009365, 371 (2, 8), Possible discharge of sewage to LDW for a few months, Fire Station 19, 1971.

from the tank, the type and quantity of leaked material, and the response to the leaked material.

The City is not aware of and has no record of underground storage tanks at the former Fire Station sites except the one listed below.

Former Fire Station 19 at Spokane Street had a 1000-gallon underground diesel storage tank and dispenser.⁴³ Correspondence indicates the tank could have been moved to another site when the station was closed in 1980,⁴⁴ but the City found no further records documenting the status of the tank. The Spokane Street site is now part of a Port of Seattle terminal.

- q. Provide the names and last known address of any tenants or lessees, the dates of their tenancy and a description of the activities or operations they conducted while present at the Subject Property.

The City is not aware of any tenants or lessees at the subject property during the relevant time period.

- r. If Respondent, its parent corporation, subsidiaries or other related or associated companies have filed for bankruptcy, provide:
 - i. the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in which the petition was filed;
 - ii. the docket numbers of such petition;
 - iii. the date the bankruptcy petition was filed;
 - iv. whether the petition is under Chapter 7 (liquidation), Chapter 11 (reorganization), or other provision; and
 - v. a description of the current status of the petition.

The Respondent, City of Seattle, has not filed for Bankruptcy.

- s. If not already provided, identify and provide a last known address or phone number for all persons, including Respondent's current and former employees or agents, other than attorneys, who have knowledge or information about the generation, use, purchase, storage, disposal, placement, or other handling of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, or transportation of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to or from, the Subject Property.

All information provided in this response was derived from documents. The former Fire Station properties ceased operation 40 or more years ago; thus, the City is not able to locate witnesses with personal knowledge of the facilities.

⁴³ SEA EWW_00009592, at SEA EWW_00009605 (14), UST at former Fire Station 19, 1977.

⁴⁴ SEA EWW_00009592, at SEA EWW_00009600 (9), correspondence re Fire Station 19 furnishings, 1980.